

Whether there was a secular chapel here, which became just  
 if there <sup>was</sup>, does not appear. It is possible that the  
 West Saxons used the ~~secular~~ secular chapel in their pre-Christian  
 days; but the history attached to the Holy Ghost chapel  
 that, during the interdict laid upon the kingdom in  
 the reign of John, interments took place in what  
 was then unconsecrated ground; that, on the removal  
 of the interdict, the inhabitants petitioned that their  
 temporary burial place should be consecrated, & that  
 then, this chapel was built by the Brethren of the  
 Guild of the Holy Ghost, & was consecrated under the  
 name of the Holy Ghost chapel, - a very rare dedication  
 for which this is, probably, the only example in England.

Here we come upon a very interesting subject  
 of the medieval religious guilds: the operations of  
 the secular guilds were so important that they have  
 received a good deal of <sup>attention</sup> ~~attention~~ at the hands of  
 recent-historians; but the great number of religious  
 guilds contemporary with them have rather dropped  
 out of notice. Like the secular guilds, these retained  
 the principle of mutual relief to the brethren in  
 sickness, but the religious guilds were established  
 in the first place, for the performance of works of  
 charity, it was required that the brethren should  
 observe certain religious services. The Guild of the Holy  
 Ghost, which had brother vicars, appears to have employed  
 itself in the instruction of youth, especially in that of the  
 youth of Bevington.

These religious guilds were possessed  
of considerable wealth, given & left to them by  
rich benefactors: their prosperity proved their  
ruin: Henry VIII. suppressed the religious guilds,  
their property & revenues being seized & vested  
in the Crown; & this not because <sup>any</sup> <sup>all</sup> of  
the guilds were accused of misdemeanors, but  
because, as is stated with delightful naïveté,  
"the King needs their chattels to carry on his  
French wars." ~~But~~ Bishop Jot. the then Bishop  
of Winchester, undertook the cause of this Guild  
of the Holy Ghost, & sought to save it by begging  
the King to take it under his gracious protection  
for the promotion of sound learning & religious  
instruction: the cause succeeded: the Guild  
accepted the role of Protector, & alone of the  
guilds, that of the Holy Ghost was not  
suppressed.

"The view of Basingstoke, executed in 1669 for  
the Grand Duke of Tuscany, Cosmo III., has a  
special interest, inasmuch as it gives  
a fair representation of the Holy Ghost Chapel,  
thenables us, with the aid of the existing remains  
the traces of foundations to add a descriptive  
account of the ruins" - says Canon Phillard,  
the accomplished archaeologist who with  
infinite perseverance, has pieced out the history  
of these antiquities. In his interesting history of Basingstoke.  
"The original building consisted of a chancel &  
nave, with a square tower at the west end. In each  
of the side walls of the chancel were two narrow lancet  
windows, indicative of its erection in the time of  
King John." This was the Chapel of the Holy Ghost.  
The one building served for both Chapel & school room.  
As a school room, it was actually in use until  
1855, when new school buildings on the Salisbury  
Road were opened. Mrs. Gilbey White went  
to school, & confessed to having helped to pull  
down a "vast <sup>fine</sup> monument" of the neighbouring ruins.

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The immensely thick walls built of undressed flints which are still standing - portions of the tower - point to a very early date, there is a 13<sup>th</sup> Century window in its deep cleft. The doorway & another window which remain can hardly be earlier than the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but - "there is little doubt - that there were inserted long after the building of the walls." What remains of ~~this~~ <sup>my covered</sup> building - three walls of the tower - is a heavy fragment - interesting for its great antiquity - but having little beauty beyond. The really beautiful ruin here is that of a Chapel of much celebrity - in its time, the resort of pilgrims, & visited, and here seen, by at least one distinguished foreigner. It was built by Sir William, afterwards Lord William Sandys, with the concurrence of Bishop Fox, & his joint petition to King Henry VIII. is extant asking for license to found a free Chapel. The new ~~Chapel~~ <sup>building</sup> was partly incorporated with the old: it was designed by Lord Sandys as a burying place for his family, & was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, though now, the ruins of both buildings are known as the Chapel or Chapels of the Holy Ghost. This later building was never used as a school room.

~~The founder's great-grandson~~ William Lord Sandys, the third Baron, ~~of the title~~ by his will dated 15<sup>th</sup> October 1621, directs that his body should be buried "in the chapel obtained erected & dedicated to the honour of the Holy Trinity, by William, late Lord Sandys, my great grandfather deceased, late Lord Chamberlain to the late King of famous memory King Henry the eighth, adjoining to the chapel called the Holy Ghost Chapel, near to the town of Salisbury in the County of Wiltshire, & my said great-grandfather appointed for the burial place of him & his posterity."



Of this Chapel, an exceedingly precious fragment remains, showing the South windows <sup>as they were</sup> as at the East end; a second apse appears to have been lost. The style is a curious mixture of classical & late Perpendicular, with debased details, but the whole effect is most pleasing. The ruin as it stands, heavily draped with ivy, is a <sup>pleasing</sup> beautiful object. It was the interior, however, that was most admired by contemporary writers; Camden speaks with praise of the 'pictures on the w<sup>all</sup>' & the beautiful stained glass windows <sup>the</sup> as instances as amongst the finest in the country.

This was the Chapel built by Lord Sands in conjunction with Bishop Fox. "In a grant of Henry VIII's time, the 'Guild of the Holy Ghost' is described as 'founded by the late Bishop of Winton (i.e. Richard Fox) & the Lord Sands, by the licence of the King's Majesty that now is, under the Great Seal of England to have one Alderman, two Wardens, certain brethren & one priest.' This deed, however, relates to the Second foundation of the Guild."

Edward VI. dissolved the Guild of the Holy Ghost, its school was dispersed, & the chapel deserted. Later, on the accession of Mary, the inhabitants of Basildon, <sup>unsuccessfully</sup> moved the Crown to restore the ancient Guild, & employing the good offices of the accomplished Cardinal Pole. ~~who was~~ <sup>in family</sup> ~~connected with a family of the neighbourhood~~ <sup>reason, had the interests of Newington heart</sup> ~~who was~~ <sup>interested in the matter</sup>. Queen Elizabeth converted the institution into a Grammar School which still flourishes on endowments derived from the estates of the Monks. The number of scholars is - present - about eighty, with a staff of 12 teachers.



showing the elevation of the Holy Ghost Chapel with both  
 apses. Query, what was the original plan's transepts?  
 An ~~account~~ <sup>out.</sup> train of circumstances brought to light  
 a manuscript of the same subject, with an inscription,  
 "Copied from the records of Basnys III. in England."  
 A search amongst the London book-shells by the  
 producer of these travels, which gave rise to the new  
 quest. The series describes the interior of the  
 Chapel as very rich - the windows of old glass,  
 stained glass. Was this glass entirely lost?  
 With a sort of felicity, a rumour arises presently  
 that some old glass, belonging to Basnys the  
 Church, it was supposed, was in the possession  
 of Lady Mill, of Mottisfont, near Romsey, a  
 descendant of the Sandys family. A journey  
 to Romsey was rewarded by the discovery of  
 several, nicely packed crates in a loft  
 which was ~~found~~ full of stained glass, which  
 was found to bear the Sandys arms, & was,  
 by various marks, identified with the glass  
 which had been carried for safety out of the  
 windows of the Holy Ghost Chapel during  
 the Civil War. It was ~~personally~~ <sup>the personal direction of Basnys</sup> bestowed  
 on the fortunate guide, ~~let~~ <sup>then</sup> by him, carried to  
 London to be put together. It now appears in  
 its interesting window in the North aisle of Mottisfont  
 Church. Some other interesting relics of the  
 Holy Ghost Chapel are still preserved at  
 Mottisfont - a purple velvet-altar frontal,  
 book covers, pulpit-hangings, - all with the  
 Sandys bearings, & their motto, "Aide Dieu."

### III

Of the pleasant walks around Basnys  
 which we have not space to describe at length